

DATE 2/1/13HB 2**Sark, Jill**

From: InsureMT Conference Room
Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2013 4:48 PM
To: Sark, Jill
Subject: FW: Written Testimony

From: Knutson & Knutson CPA [<mailto:knutsoncpas@centurytel.net>]
Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2013 4:47 PM
To: InsureMT Conference Room
Subject: Written Testimony

I have already contacted my local Legislators and the Governor; however, I wanted to send along this written testimony to reiterate my praise of the Insure Montana health insurance program.

As a local Montana CPA, I have several small business clients that I have referred to the Insure Montana program. The feedback I have received from my clients has been overwhelmingly positive. The consensus is that the Insure Montana health insurance program has been a Godsend to many struggling local businesses that truly could not have otherwise afforded health insurance coverage for themselves, not to mention their employees. This program has enabled health insurance to be provided in an economy that has struggled since the real estate crash. The program itself has been very easy to deal with, the administration and communication has been excellent and really the only drawback has been the long waiting list that the small businesses have had to endure to get into the program! With all the national attention that the health insurance issue is getting, I think the nation should look to Montana for what has proven to be a very successful answer to the small business health insurance conundrum.

I always hear CPA's from other states criticizing Montana for not being a very business-friendly environment to operate in. My first rebuttal on the small business front is "Have you heard about the Insure Montana Health Insurance Program?!"

I sincerely urge those guiding the budget talks to somehow find a way to keep this very successful and beneficial program alive. Today's economic environment is extremely taxing (excuse the pun) for most small business operators, and one of the shining lights of affordability has been Insure Montana.

Thanks,

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